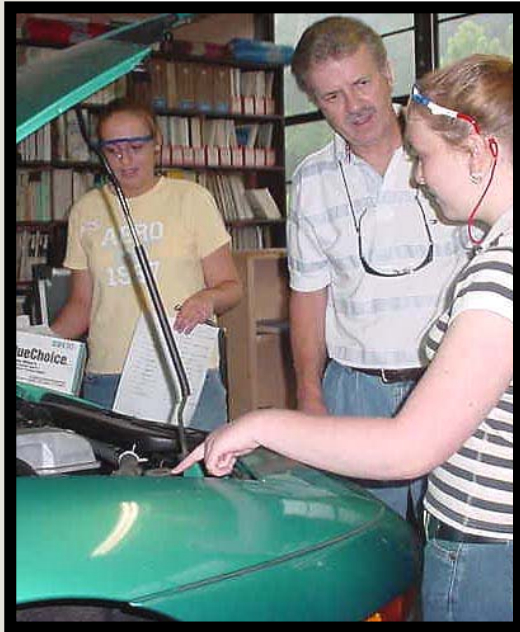


Millard ATC Hosts Summer Camp Program for Middle School Students



Instructor Danny Akers shows students how to check fluid levels in an automobile.

The thought of summer camp conjures up memories of cookouts, swimming, meeting new friends and lots of games. However a different kind of program at Millard Area Technology Center (ATC) in Pikeville has left students from Elkhorn City and Dorton Middle Schools with a whole new outlook on what summer camp is all about.

Through a grant from the School-to-Work/Careers (STW/C) Branch of the Department for Technical Education, 30 seventh and eighth grade students got the chance to attend a three day camp at the ATC. They received hands on experience in the school's five program areas. ATC instructors led students through a series of projects, which ranged from gauging tire pressure to making lamps. The grant covered all costs of the program.

“Opportunities provided to Kentucky youth through teaming efforts, such as those that created the summer camp, ensure positive outcomes and a brighter future for our students,” said STW/C Branch Director Dianne Smithers.

“The primary purpose of the camp was to expand the students’ career options,” said ATC Principal Jim Bob Hamilton. “Our school offers practical skills, which we all use in daily life as well as career opportunities that promote a healthy economy. This program served as a great way to introduce prospective students to Millard.”

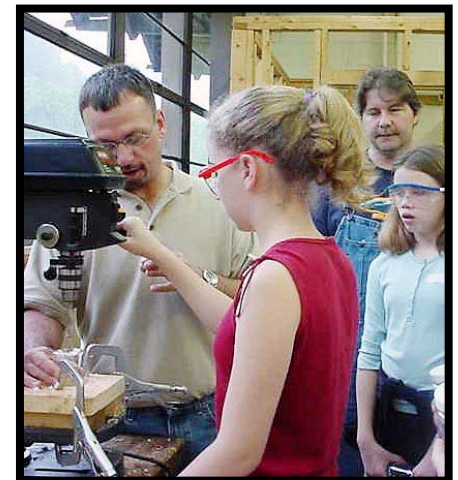
Cheryl Tackett, School to Work/Careers coordinator for Pike County implemented the project and sited its impact on the participants.


“Of the students who attended this program, 100% said they wanted to do it again and I believe 75% of those will eventually become students at Millard,” she said.

Carpentry Instructor Larry Damron, along with Electrical Technology Instructor Roger Coleman,



Pictured above: Students learn to splice a copper tube during one of the classes. Below: Instructor Roger Coleman helps students use a drill press.





assisted the students in a lamp making project. They also taught them about the many hand tools used in the trade and the importance of safety in any project.

Danny Akers, Automotive Technology instructor, taught students the importance of proper fluid levels in automobiles as well as gauging tire pressure.

“I think this type of interaction not only will help these young people as perspective car owners one day, but it may interest them as an occupation in a related field,” he said. “According to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, there will be a 10 to 20 percent increase in job openings over the next ten years in the mechanical engineering and service technician fields alone.”

Students also tried their hands at splicing a copper tube by way of HVAC Technology Instructor Stephen Slone.

“I wouldn’t have missed participating in this camp,” he said. “With the demand for employees in the air conditioning field growing faster than we are able to train them, I think this program will make these students more aware of the opportunities they will have in the future.”